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CIA PORTRAYS YURCHENKO AS TOP-LEVEL KGB OFFICIAL
BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
WASHINGTON

Countering critics who claim Vitaly Yurchenko was a minor Soviet spy who may have duped U.S. experts, the CIA said publicly its turnabout defector was the deputy chief of the KGB section responsible for spying on the United States and that he was about to be promoted to general.

The CIA also used its first public statement on the Yurchenko affair to reveal he was having marital troubles before he came over.

The agency hinted those troubles were part of his motive for coming to the West, as opposed to his being a phony defector sent here to embarrass the United States.

In a move that would have been uncommon in any defector case, the CIA on Friday night issued a three-page biography of the 49-year-old Soviet operative whose return to the Soviets shocked this city. Yurchenko told an extraordinary news conference at the Soviet Embassy on Monday that he never defected but was a kidnap victim held against his will for three months.

The CIA document listed all of Yurchenko's alleged spying posts and responsibilities, but gave no indication where the information was obtained or how it was verified, though some apparently would have had to come from Yurchenko.

CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz declined to comment on why the paper was released now.

But it was learned agency officials were piqued over news reports in the past two days in which critics inside the Reagan administration, in Congress and among retired CIA officers suggested Yurchenko was not the top-level Soviet spymaster described by the State Department on Oct. 11.

The CIA has told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Yurchenko was a genuine defector from the leadership of the KGB's most important section - the one assigned to spy on the United States, Senate sources have said.

The CIA told the Senate he provided some useful information but had a change of heart and opted to return to the Soviets in part because a lover in Canada broke off an affair with him.

Although the CIA biography showed Yurchenko once worked on placing double agents in U.S. intelligence services, the document repeated the U.S. claim that he requested political asylum at the U.S. Embassy in Rome on Aug. 1. It also stated that "his relationship with his wife was seriously strained prior to his defection."

U.S. sources had described him in the subsequent three months as the KGB's No. 5 official, but this week sources told The Washington Post he had little operational authority over spies in the field, was merely a colonel in a KGB department with numerous generals and probably wasn't even No. 50 in rank.

The CIA document, however, said Yurchenko was a "general-designate."

Another published report said he may have been pictured in the Soviet news media this summer with top KGB officials only to lend credence to a planned phony defection.

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And one report said National Security Council officers characterized the information Yurchenko imparted in Washington as minimal - "chicken feed."

President Reagan himself said the incident might have been "a deliberate ploy, a maneuver," and added, "the information he provided was not anything new or sensational. It was pretty much information already known to the CIA."

The CIA document indicated Yurchenko would have been in a position to provide a wide array of valuable information.

It said that from April to July of this year he had been deputy chief of the KGB's First Chief Directorate's first department, in charge of gathering intelligence in the United States and Canada. The department supervised KGB agents here and in Canada and coordinated the KGB's work with other Communist-bloc spy agencies here.

The CIA said Yurchenko himself personally supervised the KGB staffs in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada, and supervised a section working against the United States on Soviet territory and selecting agents in the United States. He also supervised wartime plans for his department, the CIA said.

Yurchenko transferred to the KGB in 1959 from the Soviet Navy's submarine service, rising through its ranks with a foreign tour in Egypt in 1968-72 and later in Washington, the CIA said.

Here is a summary of his career as described by the CIA:

September 1980 to March 1985, a top counterintelligence officer with the First Chief Directorate, heading the fifth department of its Directorate K. Responsible for investigating and analyzing suspected espionage or treason by KGB personnel and probing leaks.

The office worked with defectors to the Soviet Union, including former British spies Kim Philby and George Blake.

August 1975 to August 1980, security officer at the Soviet Embassy in Washington - a post he acknowledged at his news conference - working with KGB spies and handling foreigners who volunteered to work for the Soviets.

May 1972 to May 1975, deputy chief of the third department in the KGB's Third Chief Directorate, which handles counterintelligence in the Soviet armed forces. Responsible for using Soviet military counterintelligence officers to recruit foreigners as agents and for inserting Soviet agents, known as "dangles," into Western, especially U.S., intelligence agencies.

December 1968 to May 1972, on the KGB staff in Egypt as an adviser to the Egyptian fleet in Alexandria. Responsible for preventing Western spies from recruiting agents among his colleagues and for recruiting Soviet agents among Egyptian officers.

He was born in a village near Smolensk in 1936, son of a factory worker killed in World War II. Married in 1958, he has a daughter born in 1961 and an adopted son, born in 1969. His wife is an engineer. His son is still in school, and his daughter teaches English and French at a physical culture institute.

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ON PAGE **3-A**WASHINGTON TIMES
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Yurchenko repeats his charges; CIA reaffirms denials

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Central Intelligence Agency again yesterday rejected charges made in Moscow by Soviet KGB official Vitaly Yurchenko that he was held captive and drugged by the CIA before his "escape" to the Soviet Embassy compound last week.

The denial was issued at the same time CIA Director William J. Casey released a letter to Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dave Durenberger, Minnesota Republican, criticizing the chairman's handling of congressional oversight as "off-the-cuff" policy that has "gone seriously awry."

The letter was issued in response to newspaper reports quoting Mr. Durenberger as being dissatisfied with Mr. Casey and the CIA's handling of the Yurchenko case.

Mr. Durenberger, in a letter to *The Washington Post*, said the newspaper "has done a great disservice to me and to the director of central intelligence." He said the committee had no plans to restructure the CIA, as that newspaper reported, or to diminish the director's role, and that it has not scheduled a vote on whether Mr. Casey should resign over the Yurchenko affair.

The "re-defection" of Mr. Yurchenko has focused renewed attention on the CIA and Mr. Casey's management of the intelligence agency.

CIA spokesman Patti Volz said Mr. Yurchenko's latest Moscow allegations "are absolutely ridiculous."

When asked if the CIA planned to release details of information provided by Mr. Yurchenko during his purported defection, she said the agency planned to issue no further response to Mr. Yurchenko's allegations "at this time."

"As far as we're concerned, we have more important things to do than to respond to obvious Soviet propaganda like that," she said.

Ms. Volz said the agency hopes U.S. media "won't lend itself to such a transparent Soviet [propaganda] effort."

The State Department said last month that Mr. Yurchenko defected

to the United States in Rome last August. He walked away from a Georgetown restaurant Nov. 2 and two days later was featured at a Soviet Embassy press conference where he charged the CIA with kidnapping and drugging him.

A dispute has arisen within the U.S. government over whether Mr. Yurchenko was a bona fide defector who changed his mind or was sent by Moscow as a disinformation agent.

The CIA maintains Mr. Yurchenko was a legitimate defector and released last week a lengthy biography indicating he held a senior post in the Soviet secret police.

So far, there have been no arrests or expulsions of Soviet agents and no public revelations about Soviet agent networks in North America, actions Mr. Yurchenko could have precipitated based on his career profile.

Some members of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the National Security Council have said they suspect Mr. Yurchenko was a plant.

Mr. Yurchenko made his first public appearance in the Soviet Union yesterday where he told a crowded Moscow press conference that during his two months of captivity, the CIA forced him to sunbathe and "made me go in for sports, even play golf" in an effort make him appear healthy after being forced to take drugs.

He said shortly before his "escape," he was taken by a CIA security official to a men's clothing store, where he telephoned the Soviet Embassy.

The CIA official then took him to a "French restaurant [and] forced me to eat French food in Georgetown. . . . I was at the end of my tether — it was freedom or death," Mr. Yurchenko said.

Using a coat, hat and umbrella he purchased from the men's store, Mr. Yurchenko said he was able to disguise himself and slip out of the restaurant past a line of CIA surveillance cars as he made his way back to the Soviet Embassy compound several blocks away.

Mr. Yurchenko, reading from a prepared text yesterday, said as a result of his actions, "there will be a lot of internal changes in the CIA."

Intelligence experts speculate that Mr. Yurchenko may have been sent to the United States as a double agent to disrupt and demoralize the CIA, or possibly to cast doubt on information from other recent KGB

An administration official, in a background briefing, said there were signs from the press conference that Soviet officials were preparing to imprison Mr. Yurchenko in a psychiatric prison hospital.

Dr. Nikolai Zharikov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences said at the news conference that Mr. Yurchenko's tale "shows that it was made by a person who lived through torture by monsters of cruelty from Langley," the location of CIA headquarters.

He said Mr. Yurchenko suffered "an acute organic damage of the brain" as the result of being fed "psychotropic drugs" and now shows signs of emotional instability, including "special psychotic states," and that he has trouble with motor functions and cries easily.

"This gives them an excuse to put him in a mental institution once they get enough press conferences out of him," the official said. "The business about brain deterioration and psychotic states — that's a tipoff on how they're going to solve this."

Experts believe Mr. Yurchenko's public charges against the CIA are a ploy to prevent the United States from raising the issue of Soviet human rights violations at the upcoming summit meeting in Geneva.

Georgetown University professor Roy Godson, an expert on Soviet disinformation tactics, said the second Yurchenko press conference, only five days before President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Geneva, is part of a Soviet effort to "heighten the campaign" against discussing human rights at the summit.

"To cynically exploit the incident five days before the summit tells us that they are defensive on the human rights issue and on cue to heighten the consciousness on their slogan. 'The arms race is the future of the human race,'" Mr. Godson said in an interview.

WASHINGTON POST
9 November 1985

Yurchenko Held High KGB Rank, According to CIA

Ending Silence, Agency Issues Report on Soviet Ex-Defector

By Patrick E. Tyler
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency—under fire for its recent handling of Vitaly Yurchenko's "defection" from the Soviet intelligence service—broke its official silence last night by issuing an unusual three-page statement detailing Yurchenko's life and describing him as a man "whose relationship with his wife was seriously strained prior to his defection."

The biography, which described Yurchenko as a "general-designate" in the KGB with 25 years' experience, was issued late in the day to news services in Washington without explanation or comment.

The CIA statement said that from April to July this year, Yurchenko's duties included supervising the selection of KGB agents in the United States and KGB joint operations with the spy services of other communist countries. He had direct authority over "KGB residents" in Canada and coordinated spy "work against American citizens."

According to the CIA statement, Yurchenko also supervised wartime contingency planning for the KGB in North America, including "selecting agents to be used after the beginning of war; and working out agent communications plans."

CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz—who two days ago said, "The CIA has never commented about Yurchenko. We don't talk about defectors"—last night said the biography was issued because "people were asking for it and it was decided to make it available to certain individuals."

An intelligence community official said last night that one explanation for the statement was that the CIA has been smarting over assertions in the news media that Yurchenko was not the "big fish" the CIA has claimed in private briefings on Capitol Hill.

CIA officials have consistently described Yurchenko as a high-ranking KGB officer, and some intelligence sources have been quoted saying he was as high as No. 5 in the Soviet secret police.

In a highly embarrassing episode for the CIA, Yurchenko walked out of a Georgetown restaurant last Saturday night and ended his three-month defection by walking into the Soviet Embassy compound in upper Northwest Washington. There he called an extraordinary news conference last Monday evening to accuse

the CIA of kidnaping him, drugging him and holding him against his will at a safe-house near Fredericksburg, Va.

The CIA denied Yurchenko's allegations and has told Senate and House intelligence oversight committees that the agency will try to sort out whether Yurchenko was a genuine defector or a clever double agent who thoroughly duped U.S. intelligence.

"I am puzzled," Sen. William S. Cohen (R-Maine) said last night. "If this is an attempt to validate his real identity, we will need more."

Added one congressional oversight committee member, "I don't know what this statement proves. This is information they obviously got from him. It doesn't disprove other statements about how high he was."

The biography says Vitaly Sergeyevich Yurchenko was born on May 2, 1936, near the village of Smolensk, the son of a factory worker who died at the siege of Leningrad during World War II and a mother who worked on a collective farm and died in Leningrad earlier this year.

Yurchenko, the statement says, went to military training school and entered the Soviet submarine service, graduating with a degree in navigation in 1958. He was commissioned as a navy lieutenant assigned to the Pacific fleet headquartered in Vladivostok.

Married in 1958 to a woman who works as an engineer in a Moscow planning institute, Yurchenko has a daughter born in 1961 and an adopted son born in 1969. His KGB career reportedly began in 1959, when he joined the KGB third Chief Directorate as a counterintelligence officer in the armed forces. He remained attached to the armed forces during most of the 1960s.

The statement confirmed that Yurchenko worked as the internal security officer at the Soviet Embassy here from 1975 to 1980, when he was transferred to Moscow as a top counterintelligence officer in charge of internal security within the KGB, guarding against leaks and espionage by KGB employees. This office worked with defectors to the Soviet Union, including former British spies, H.A.R. (Kim) Philby and George Blake, the statement said.

Finally, in April of this year, Yurchenko was promoted to be deputy chief of the First Department of the KGB's First Chief Directorate, which supervises intelligence gathering in the United States and Canada. The CIA said Yurchenko personally supervised the KGB staff in Montreal and Ottawa.

Intelligence sources said earlier this week that after his August defection, Yurchenko was clandestinely taken to Ottawa to meet the woman with whom he had been romantically involved and who, Yurchenko hoped, would join him. But the woman reportedly spurned him.

NEW YORK TIMES
7 November 1985

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Safe Houses and Such, in Capital's Backyard

By JEFF GERTH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 — When he announced his decision to return to the Soviet Union on Monday, Vitaly Yurchenko shed some light on the normally secret world of safe houses and intelligence sites.

"It's not my secret, it is your secret," Mr. Yurchenko told reporters while describing the house provided him by the Central Intelligence Agency some 22 miles from Fredricksburg, Va., on a 500-acre subdivision with a lake.

Mr. Yurchenko's temporary home in Virginia, like many other C.I.A. sites, is convenient to agency head-

quarters in McLean, Va., but sufficiently obscure to meet the secretive requirements of intelligence work.

As might be expected, the C.I.A. does not advertise its installations.

"We simply don't talk about the location of any of our facilities," Patti Volz, a C.I.A. spokesman, said.

But interviews with present and former intelligence officials as well as a number of published reports reveal that the C.I.A. uses various Virginia locations to house defectors as well as train agents, provide paramilitary support or handle agency trust funds.

The Washington area is not the only location for safe houses or other intelligence installations; they are scat-

tered throughout the country and some are overseas in critical East-West junctions such as Berlin and Vienna, according to intelligence officials. Furthermore, other agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, maintain safe houses of their own, officials said.

But northern Virginia is a favorite location for the C.I.A., which in addition to its McLean headquarters has offices in places like Rosslyn, Va.

One former intelligence official said the C.I.A. maintains several safe houses in northern Virginia, some rented, some owned, for debriefing Soviet bloc defectors. The houses are within an hour's drive of McLean, he

said, "because you don't want an officer wasting time driving a long way" or exposing himself any more than is necessary.

Former intelligence officials also described a C.I.A. training camp near Williamsburg, Va., called the Farm. The camp is actually part of a sprawling military installation, Camp Peary, on the banks of the York River. The C.I.A. has used the camp for a variety of purposes, including paramilitary training for agents and debriefing of defectors.

Since Camp Peary is more than 100 miles from Washington, the C.I.A. has used a local Washington aviation company to shuttle officials between the two, as well as a number of other locations, according to former officials.

The C.I.A. also uses a number of

corporate entities, ranging from fully operational businesses controlled by the C.I.A., called proprietaries, to shell companies, which perform little business but are used for cover, to contractual arrangements with various fraternal corporations.

Many of these organizations are based in Washington or northern Virginia. For example, an aircraft leasing corporation with contractual ties to the C.I.A. and staffed by former C.I.A. officials operates near Dulles Airport in northern Virginia, according to present and former intelligence officials. However, the company has an unlisted telephone number and its office is not traceable.

The C.I.A. has divested itself of many of its proprietary holdings, especially aircraft companies. A Senate report noted that the C.I.A.'s larg-

est proprietaries were two air support companies, which were dissolved, and an insurance company, which was not disbanded and which handles trust funds and insurance.

But the agency still maintains shadowy links to the companies that absorbed the C.I.A. assets, according to intelligence officials and the 1976 report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"In a very real sense, it is nearly impossible to evaluate whether a 'link' still exists between the agency and a former asset related to a proprietary," the Senate report said.

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Shultz still thinks Yurchenko was real defector, not a plant

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Secretary of State George Shultz said yesterday that U.S. officials remain convinced Vitaly Yurchenko, the supposed prize KGB defector who walked back into Soviet hands, was not a Soviet plant but "defected and, for some reason or another, changed his mind."

"What he said was just a packet of lies," Mr. Shultz said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "He was not kidnapped, he was not drugged or any of those things."

The Central Intelligence Agency has identified Mr. Yurchenko as a "general-designate" of the KGB in an apparent attempt to counter speculation that the Soviet spymaster actually was a low-level plant dispatched by Moscow to disrupt CIA operations.

In an unusual three-page statement released Friday, the CIA described Mr. Yurchenko's relationship with his wife of 27 years as "seriously strained prior to his defection."

The document provides details of Mr. Yurchenko's responsibility for KGB operations in North America, which involved coordinating KGB "work against American citizens." He also coordinated Soviet bloc intelligence operations, ran KGB stations in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada, and selected "agents" in the United States.

Other duties included "selection of agents to be used after the beginning of war and working out agent communications," the CIA statement said.

The White House refused to comment yesterday on a report that President Reagan is considering ordering an investigation into the CIA's handling of the Yurchenko case.

The Los Angeles Times yesterday described Reagan as "upset" over the incident and quoted unnamed sources as saying he is considering an investigation into the case — a review that could embrace the way other defectors have been treated.

Mr. Yurchenko allegedly defected to the United States last summer but walked away from a Georgetown restaurant Nov. 2 and returned to the Soviet Embassy compound several blocks away. Two days later, he appeared at a news conference at the Soviet embassy and said he had been kidnapped and drugged by the CIA.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed administration official as saying, "The people involved will get letters of reprimand, but I wouldn't put this all on the junior people. It's the senior people's fault."

Questions have been raised by members of Congress and intelligence experts about Mr. Yurchenko's seniority in the KGB. When he first came over, intelligence officials had described Mr. Yurchenko as a senior KGB official who may have held the No. 5 post in the KGB. Other

intelligence officials have said Mr. Yurchenko's seniority was far lower in the chain of command.

The CIA statement said Mr. Yurchenko was a 25-year veteran of the KGB who most recently was chief counterintelligence officer in the First Chief Directorate (foreign intelligence operations). He directed the Fifth Department of the counterintelligence Directorate K, which investigates espionage by KGB personnel and penetrations by enemy spies.

Mr. Yurchenko would have known many details of KGB agent operations in North America, including agent code-names. It was this KGB division that handled the case of notorious British spies Kim Philby and George Blake, Soviet agents during the 1950s and 1960s, the statement said.

CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz declined to comment on why the paper was released after months of official silence on the matter.

Comparing Mr. Yurchenko to another Soviet KGB defector in Great Britain, Oleg Gordievski, one CIA official remarked two months ago that Mr. Yurchenko "makes Gordievski look like a throwaway." In spy parlance, a throwaway is an agent given away in order to protect more important spies. At the time of his defection, the official said, Mr. Yurchenko exhibited "no abnormalities," such as drinking or emotional problems.